

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-03

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DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:WPCHASE:JFM

APPROVED BY SCA:FSMITH

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R 211945Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC:JAIL (JUSTICE FOR AMERICANS IMPRISONED AND LOST)

SUBJECT: W/W :JAIL

REF:(A) STATE 252031 (B) CA-3988, MAY 8, 1973

1. REFTEL (A) REPORTED THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF JUSTICE FOR AMERICANS IMPRISONED AND LOST (JAIL) GREGG HEACOCK WOULD VISIT EMBASSY LONDON IN JANUARY 1974 AND OTHER POSTS IN UK AND ELSEWHERE SUBSEQUENTLY. LETTER FROM HEACOCK RECEIVED MID-APRIL IN DEPARTMENT INDICATED HE WAS LEAVING LONDON FOR ONWARD TRAVELS IN UK. REF (B) PROVIDED SUMMARY BACKGROUND RE JAIL. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR UK, HEACOCK CALLED AT DEPARTMENT WITH JAIL WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE ATTORNEY RONALD PLESSER TO REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THAT JAIL BE PROVIDED NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL AMERICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD.

2. AFTER EXTENDED STUDY OF LEGAL AND OTHER QUESTIONS

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INVOLVED, PLESSER WAS INFORMED IN APRIL THAT (A) COMPLETE

CURRENT LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS NOT AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT, (B) SUCH INFORMATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND BEST POSSIBLE SOURCE WOULD BE INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS, (C) HOWEVER, MANY INVOLVED HAVE INSISTED UPON THEIR RIGHT OF PERSONAL PRIVACY AND HAVE FORBIDDEN CONSULAR OFFICERS TO

DIVULGE THEIR IDENTITIES AND WHEREABOUTS. AS COMPROMISE,

IT PROPOSED THAT POSTS WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE INFORMATION RE JAIL AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATION DIRECTLY TO EACH PRISONER. THE PRISONER COULD DECIDE WHETHER HE WANTED INTEREST JAIL IN HIS CASE. IT SUGGESTED THAT THIS PROCEDURE BE IMPLEMENTED ON TRIAL BASIS ONE OR TWO AGREED UPON COUNTRIES.

3. PLESSER INDICATED DEPARTMENT'S COMPROMISE APPEARED ACCEPTABLE TO HIM AND HE WOULD INFORM JAIL. WE UNDERSTAND HE MAY ALSO HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH HEACOCK.

4. PLESSER HAS NOT RESPONDED TO DEPARTMENT BUT WE HAVE JUST HEARD INFORMALLY THAT DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS JAIL HAS BECOME DEFUNCT. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HEACOCK OR SOMEONE ELSE WILL CONTINUE RAISE ISSUE OF RELEASE OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS ABROAD. IF REQUEST RECEIVED, REPORT CIRCUMSTANCES AND REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE. ADDRESSEES ALSO REQUESTED REPORT BY OM

TO DEPARTMENT (SCS) ANY CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING HEACOCK'S WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES. RUSH

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